

Cockburn, MacLennan in mutual admiration society

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total much lower.

In turn, that proved to be the difference after falling .09 of a point short for the bronze medal.

Cockburn though, was quick to praise Wenna's routine.

"Without her fall at the end, she would have finished first," Cockburn said. "The reason she edged me for the bronze was because (the judges) scored my routine too low. Not because they scored hers too high."

Cockburn said it can be confusing for spectators who aren't well versed on the scoring system when watching the sport.

As a veteran performer in the sport, Cockburn felt some adjustments to the scoring system need to be taken into consideration when the 2016 Olympics take place in Brazil.

"You can still win a medal with a fall, if the fall is after you finish your last skill, you only lose 1.5 off your total score," Cockburn said. "It should be a bigger penalty and maybe they will change this rule for the future."

If there was any consolation for Cockburn at the Olympics, it was in seeing her longtime Skyriders Trampoline Club and Canadian teammate Rosie MacLennan claim the coveted gold medal.

START A FAMILY

It may have even represented a possible passing of the torch.

After winning the gold, MacLennan was quick to praise her time in learning the sport through Cockburn.

Likewise, Cockburn was quick to point out she's learned a lot from MacLennan in the time they've worked together at Richmond Hill's Skyriders Club.

But in no way did Cockburn feel she was the main reason MacLennan won the gold.

That was done on her own merit.

"I was 16 when I met Rosie, she was just eight years old at that time," Cockburn said. "Of course she has trained alongside me and learned from me. But I've also learned so much from her."

"We pushed each other in training and worked as a team to qualify for these games and then worked hard in hopes that we would both be on the podium. I've always tried to give her the best advice and help her in any way that I could. But I do not want to take credit for her gold. She won that medal on her own and gave an amazing performance."

PERFECT DAY

"Rosie had been training great the two months leading up to the games. I knew she had a good shot at the gold. But you have to be perfect on that particular day."

"When I saw her score come up, I knew it was good enough to win. I looked at the two athletes from China who still had to compete and they were feeling the pressure from seeing such a high score."

Being denied a fourth Olympic medal could give Cockburn plenty of incentive to set her sights on the 2016 Games.

Cockburn though, has other plans.

Something far closer to her Stouffville residence where she's supported by her husband Mathieu Turgeon, a former Canadian Olympic bronze medallist in the men's trampoline event at the 2000 Summer Games.

"When I look back on my Olympic career, I was third, second, second and fourth which is pretty great results," she said. "But I want to start a family. I'm 31 and do not want to push that off too much longer. So I'm not sure if that will leave much time to train for another Games."



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Stouffville's Karen Cockburn (left) arrives at Pearson International with Canadian gold medallist Rosie MacLennan of King City Monday.

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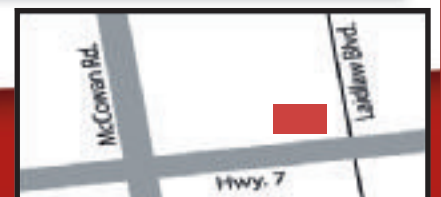
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